



SUICIDE AWARENESS VOICES OF EDUCATION

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June 1, 2019

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Comment regarding 18-336 "National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act"

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE) is the nation's leading suicide prevention organization dedicated to preventing suicide through public awareness and education. For 30 years we have provided prevention, intervention and bereavement services to the public. We are headquartered in Bloomington, MN with charters across the country and volunteers and programs in nearly every state. In addition to a direct phone line, we operate a toll-free national line for people to contact us.

We care deeply about the mental health of all Americans and are concerned about the mental health crisis that we see in more and more people each day. Tragically, too often those mental health crisis situations result in a suicide-related crisis or death. At the present time the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is working at maximum capacity to try and respond to the incredible need that our citizens have around mental health and suicide prevention. Sadly, it is still too much and it is overwhelming the system. A better, more thoughtful approach and long-term plan for our country is needed right now to help keep people alive.

We understand that National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act and the recent recommendations submitted relative to addressing this critical, national crisis. There seems no better way to address this than through the identification and implementation of an N11 dialing code specific to suicide prevention and mental health crisis. An easy to remember number would help those in crisis know exactly who to call and that alone can help reduce the risk of additional loss of life for our country. Any recommendation short of a newly designated N11 number would be potentially more problematic for the public and could make things even worse. We are therefore not supportive of a dual-use line (e.g. 211) or the creation of another number with 10 digits.

Now is the time for the FCC to take a leading role in saving lives of Americans. That is why we urge you to support the designation or repurposing of a single-purpose N11 dialing code.

Respectfully,

Daniel J. Reidenberg, Psy.D.
Executive Director - SAVE



NCSP

National Council for Suicide Prevention



COMMUNITY HEALTH CHARITIES

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